

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 06083 281936Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07
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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
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INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
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USEEC

PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY
PARIS ALSO FOR USOECD
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, EEC
SUBJ: COMMISSION VIEWS ON JOINING INTERNATIONAL SUGAR
AGREEMENT

REF: (A) BRUSSELS 5688; (B) EC-A-10

1. DURING THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S MARCH PLENARY SESSION
(REF A), EC COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT GUNDELACH IMPLIED
THAT THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY WAS NOW READY TO MOVE AHEAD
WITH NEGOTIATIONS TO JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL SUGAR AGREE-
MENT (ISA). SPECIFICALLY, GUNDELACH MADE REFERENCE TO
QUOTE RECENT NEGOTIATIONS WITH MAJOR PARTIES CONCERNED,
INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES UNQUOTE AS HAVING OPENED THE
WAY TO EARLY TALKS ABOUT EC ASSOCIATION WITH THE SUGAR
AGREEMENT.

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2. WHEN QUESTIONED ON THIS POINT, A WORKING LEVEL
OFFICIAL IN THE COMMISSION'S SUGAR DIVISION RESPONDED THAT
HE AND OTHERS IN HIS DIVISION WERE TRYING TO DETERMINE
WHAT GUNDELACH HAD IN MIND. HE SAID THAT NO ONE IN THE
SUGAR DIVISION HAD BEEN INFORMED OF ANY NEW EC INITIATIONS
FOR JOINING THE ISA AT THIS TIME NOR HAD ANYONE, INCLUDING

GUNDELACH, ASKED THEIR ADVICE IN THIS MATTER.

3. BEFORE THE COMMUNITY COULD FOCUS ON THE ISSUE OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE ISA, TWO THINGS, ACCORDING TO THE COMMISSION OFFICIAL, WOULD NEED TO TAKE PLACE. FIRST, THE COMMUNITY WOULD HAVE TO DECIDE ON AN INTERNAL SUGAR POLICY. THE MOST RECENT COMMISSION PROPOSALS IN THIS AREA ARE PART OF THE COMMISSION 1978/79 PRICE PACKAGE (REF B) AND WOULD, INTER ALIA, CALL FOR A REDUCTION OF AROUND 11 PER CENT IN THE MAXIMUM COMMUNITY SUGAR QUOTA (MANUFACTURED SUGAR OUTSIDE THE MAXIMUM QUOTA RECEIVES NO GUARANTEED PRICE) IN AN EFFORT TO REDUCE THE COMMUNITY'S SUGAR SURPLUSES. SECONDLY, HE SAID THAT THE COMMUNITY WILL NEED TO CRITICALLY EXAMINE THE ISA FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF ITS PROSPECTS FOR ALLEVIATING WORLD SUGAR SURPLUS DIFFICULTIES. IN PARTICULAR, HE SAID, THE COMMUNITY WOULD BE WATCHING WHETHER OR NOT THE U.S. RATIFIED ITS MEMBERSHIP IN ISA. WITHOUT CERTAINTY OF U.S. PARTICIPATION, AND THEREFORE THE POSSIBILITY OF A FUNCTIONALLY SUCCESSFUL AGREEMENT, HE SAID THE COMMUNITY DID NOT SEE MUCH POINT IN VIGOROUSLY PURSUING MEMBERSHIP. MORRIS

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